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Twentieth Biennial Report of
the Board of Trustees
of the
Historical Society
of Montana



1929-1930

Montana State Library



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From date of organization March 25, 1865.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

TWENTIETH BIENNIAL REPORT TO GOVERNOR JOHN E. ERICKSON 1930

Helena, Montana,
Nov. 1, 1930.

Hon. John E. Erickson,
Governor of Montana,
Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:

We have the honor to submit herewith the twentieth biennial report of the Historical Society of Montana, as required by statute, and the report of the librarian, Mr. David Hilger, also as forming part of our report, for the years 1929-1930.

This department suffered a severe loss in the death of the Hon. Wyllys A. Hedges, Vice-President of our Board. Mr. Hedges, a son of Cornelius Hedges, was a distinguished pioneer of the state whose father was one of the early and most active members of the Historical Society of Montana. Mr. Hedges' death occurred at Lewistown, Montana, on November 29, 1929, and he was succeeded as Vice-President of the Board of Trustees by Judge O. F. Goddard of Billings, Montana.

This department has been operating under a legislative appropriation of \$5,415.00 per year for the biennium of July 1, 1929 to June 30, 1931, which is a decrease of \$910.00 from the appropriation for the two previous years which was \$6,325.00 per annum. In fact, the appropriations for this department for many years ranged from \$6,500.00 to \$8,500.00 per year.

Our appropriation of \$5,415.00 was divided into the following budgets:

Salary, Librarian	\$2,400.00
Salary, Assistant Librarian	1,800.00
Other Operating Expenses	540.00
Capital, Repairs and Replacements	675.00
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Total.....	\$5,415.00

We again call attention to the overcrowded condition of our library quarters and to the constantly increasing accumulation of books, manuscripts, newspaper files, museum specimens and to the collection in the basement not available to the public.

The legislative assembly of 1929 recognizing the need of a Historical Society building passed an act (Chapter 30, Laws of 1929, Page 49) providing for the construction of a Historical Society Library building and authorizing the State Board of Examiners to sell bonds issued against the Capitol Buildings Land Grant in the sum of \$250,000.00. These bonds were duly offered for sale by the State Board of Examiners but sad to say no bids were received after due publication of notice of the sale of bonds. Section 9 of the Act provides as follows: "Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to in anywise hold the State of Mon-

tana liable for the payment of bonds herein authorized or the interest thereon, except as to the lien heretofore created against the lands granted for the purpose of erecting public buildings at the State Capital and the funds derived therefrom, provided that such liens shall not be breached or set aside until the bonds authorized by this and previous Acts have been fully paid, together with interest thereon, and the State Board of Examiners are hereby especially enjoined to use all lawful means to see to it that the spirit of this Act is fully complied with."

The State Capitol Buildings Land Grant contained originally 182,000 acres of land and at the present time has still 123,000 acres scattered throughout the state but mostly in western Montana. The present outstanding bonds which were used to build the Capitol wings and the Board of Health building are still outstanding and the present status is as follows:

Present Outstanding Bonds	\$575,252.00
Less Cash in Fund	4,623.00
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Net Total	\$570,629.00
Proposed Library Building	250,000.00
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Total	\$820,629.00

There is a total of 123,000 acres of unsold land in the Capitol Buildings Land Grant which at the minimum price of \$10.00 per acre would be worth \$1,230,000.00, an amount that would seem to assure the payment of the bonds. There is about \$130,000.00 due in sales of land under the amortization plan in the Capitol Buildings Land Grant.

The bond buyers appeared to think that the Capitol Buildings Land Grant was overloaded with the prior bond issues. The fact that the State Land Board had bought all of the outstanding bonds makes it appear that it is up to them to buy this proposed issue for the Historical Society Library building.

It is our purpose to have a meeting of our Board of Trustees early in January, 1931, and as we have two distinguished lawyers on the Board, we intend to take the matter up with the legislative body convening in January for such further action as may be necessary to bring about the desired result.

The administration of the Library has been efficiently and economically conducted during the past two years by the librarian, Mr. David Hilger, and Mrs. Anne McDonnell, his valuable assistant. Much publicity has been given to important historical subjects through the newspapers of the state.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPHINE I. HEPNER,
President.

O. F. GODDARD
M. M. DUNCAN
HARRY B. MITCHELL
DAVID HILGER

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

OF THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

Helena, Montana,
Nov. 1, 1930.

To the Board of Trustees of the
Historical Society of Montana.
Mrs. Josephine I. Hepner, President.

Members of the Board:

I present herewith the twentieth biennial report of the Historical Society of Montana for the years 1929-1930.

My reports for the three former biennial periods were devoted largely to the very insufficient appropriations made by the legislature for this department. The appropriation for the last two years has been \$5,415.00 per annum as compared with \$6,325.00 per annum for the two preceding years. This is one of the few, perhaps the only state department operating on less money than received in former years and one with which neither the legislative body nor the taxpayers of the state can find any fault. The creation of this department is coexistent with the formation of the Territory at the Bannack legislature of 1864-1865. It was taken over by the state by an Act approved March 4, 1891, so that we have ranked as a state department for forty years.

Among the duties of the Society as required by statute is one providing for the publication of "Contributions" annually of which we have published to date nine volumes from 1876 to 1923. I have repeatedly called the attention of the legislative body to the necessity of providing funds for the publication of the volume in our appropriation. The sum of \$500.00 at least, and possibly \$750.00 is necessary. We have the manuscript ready for Volume 10, and can provide material for Volume 11 during the coming year. This material is of great historical value and should be published. We are supposed to exchange our publications with other historical societies and we are greatly in debt to these organizations who have been more than generous in the exchange of publications in view of the fact that we have not been able to reciprocate with anything for a period of years.

Our bound volumes of Montana newspapers have been kept up to date and are of great value both to the research and historical student as well as the public in general. Here again the legislature "has failed to provide" for the cost of binding the newspapers. The good work of preserving the invaluable sources of information was well begun and should be continued. It requires at least \$1,000.00 annually to care for the binding of the newspapers and books as well as the quarterly publications of the various state historical societies.

I have through the medium of the newspapers put out much publicity on important historical matters, besides making public addresses and carrying out the custom of attendance at the annual meetings of the Society of Montana Pioneers. It has always been part of my work to take an active part in the proceedings and at the last meeting I was honored by being elected President of the Society.

Our need of a building for the Historical Society has been covered in the report to the Governor, and your active cooperation is requested during the coming session of the legislature.

The Library is being conducted in an efficient and economical manner and our quarters are much frequented by the students of the Helena schools as well as those of the Universities of Missoula and Bozeman, with occasionally a visitor from out of the state engaged in research work. The donations of valuable historical material by interested citizens of this and other states and the receipt of such is a matter of daily occurrence. All such additions are carefully labeled and preserved.

The Library is growing more overcrowded all the time, making it difficult to keep up the appearance of our department as material must be stored or placed wherever room may be found, but we are reluctant to refuse donations as we hope some day to have proper quarters for the housing and display of this valuable material.

I cannot close my report without expressing the sorrow of the Society on the death of our Vice President, Mr. Wyllys A. Hedges, who was a recent President of the Society of Montana Pioneers. His father, Cornelius Hedges, had much to do with the upbuilding of the Historical Society of Montana and this Library.

I wish to express my appreciation of your assistance and active cooperation and for the valued work of my assistant, Mrs. Anne McDonnell, which is excellent in every branch, and especially so in that of research. Mrs. McDonnell and I have experienced the best of relationships with the other state departments and received most courteous treatment from each and every one, for which we express our sincere appreciation.

Respectfully submitted,
DAVID HILGER, Librarian.

Books Accessioned During 1929-1930

General Works	10
Philosophy	1
Religion	4
Sociology	69
Philology	1
Natural Science	21
Useful Arts	6
Fine Arts	3
Literature	25
History and Travel	308
Biography	36
Genealogy	25
Periodicals (Historical Society)	98
Periodicals (Quarterlies)	
Newspapers (Daily)	109
Newspapers (Weekly)	194
Total.....	910

Legislative Journals, Reports, etc., 192 volumes received from
other States.

Gifts Other Than Books Received During 1929-1930

Framed Portraits of:

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jacobs
Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Nolan
William Thompson
Geoffrey Lavelle
Rev. P. J. De Smet
Major James Drennan
Mrs. Mollie J. Kline
John H. Freeser
Charles Mayger

Bronze bust of John Maguire
Spanish riding bit
Chinese yoke
Sharp's buffalo rifle
Double barrelled shotgun
Revolver, handcuffs, etc. (Property of the late John Collins, stock
inspector.)
Steinway piano, brought to Montana in the sixties
Two mounted buffalo
One mounted buffalo head
Photographs of historic interest
Maps
Rifle once owned by J. A. Slade

